

§20.44 Presubmission review of request for confidentiality of voluntarily submitted data or information.

(a) Any person who is considering submission of data or information voluntarily to the Food and Drug Administration may forward to the Director of the Center involved, or to the Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs, a request for presubmission review of the records involved to determine whether the Food and Drug Administration will or will not make part or all of them available for public disclosure upon request if they are submitted. Any such request shall state why the data or information involved fall within an exemption from public disclosure set out in subpart D of this part and shall enclose the records involved.

(b) Pending a determination upon such request, the records involved shall be held confidentially and separately by the Food and Drug Administration and shall not be received as part of Food and Drug Administration files.

(c) Pursuant to such a request, the Food and Drug Administration shall make a determination whether part or all of the records involved will be made available for public disclosure upon request if they are submitted. A determination of confidentiality will be made only if it is concluded that the data or information involved fall within an exemption from public disclosure set out in subpart D of this part and are relevant to and important for agency activity.

(d) After a determination is made pursuant to this section, the Food and Drug Administration shall receive as part of its files the records for which a request for confidentiality has been granted and shall so mark or designate those records. The person requesting the presubmission review shall have the option of submitting or withdrawing the records for which a request for confidentiality has been denied. No copy or summary of records withdrawn pursuant to this section, or any correspondence or memoranda or records relating thereto, shall be retained in Food and Drug Administration files.

(e) A determination of confidentiality pursuant to this section is subject

to the limitations established in subpart E of this part except that the data or information involved shall not be subject to discretionary release pursuant to §20.82. Such a determination of confidentiality by the Food and Drug Administration means that the Food and Drug Administration will not make the data or information involved available for public disclosure unless ordered to do so by a court.

(f) A determination based upon a presubmission review pursuant to this section shall be made in writing and shall be signed only by the Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs.

(g) Data and information that may be required to be submitted to the Food and Drug Administration but that are submitted voluntarily instead are not subject to the provisions of this section and will be handled as if they had been required to be submitted.

(h) No request under this section shall be accepted if the status of the records involved is already determined by §20.111 or by any other regulation published or cross-referenced in this part.

[42 FR 15616, Mar. 22, 1977, as amended at 46 FR 8457, Jan. 27, 1981; 50 FR 8995, Mar. 6, 1985]

§20.45 Situations in which confidentiality is uncertain.

In situations where the confidentiality of data or information is uncertain and there is a request for public disclosure, the Food and Drug Administration will consult with the person who has submitted or divulged the data or information or who would be affected by disclosure before determining whether or not such data or information is available for public disclosure.

§20.46 Judicial review of proposed disclosure.

Where the Food and Drug Administration consults with a person who will be affected by a proposed disclosure of data or information contained in Food and Drug Administration records pursuant to §20.45, and rejects the person's request that part or all of the records not be made available for public disclosure, the decision constitutes final